

IN THE DRAWINGS

Approval of the attached proposed drawing changes to Fig. 6(a) is respectfully requested.

IN THE ABSTRACT

[Please amend the Abstract as follows:]

A⁶
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A papermaking mold which includes a papermaking part of a prescribed shape, a peripheral part extending outward from the peripheral edge of the papermaking part, and a net covering the papermaking part and at least part of the peripheral part. A fixing member is disposed on the periphery of the net, and the fixing member is fixed to the peripheral part to fix the net by the fixing member.

REMARKS

Favorable consideration of this application, as presently amended, is respectfully requested.

The present Preliminary Amendment is submitted to place the above-identified application in more proper format under United States practice.

By the present Preliminary Amendment the specification has been amended to correct for minor informalities. The changes made to the specification are deemed to be self-evident from the original disclosure, and thus are not deemed to raise any issues of new matter.

Proposed drawing changes are submitted with this response to correct for an informality in Figure 6(a) by now labelling element 120a therein.

The Abstract has been amended by the present response to no longer recite any legal phraseology or reference numerals.

The present application is believed to be in condition for a full and through examination on the merits. An early and favorable consideration of the present application is hereby respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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IN THE SPECIFICATION

Page 4, please replace the paragraph at lines 11-18 with the following:

--The net 15 is provided along the surface of the papermaking part 11 and the peripheral part [11] 13. The net 15 is shaped in conformity to the contour of a vertical half of a molded article to be produced. The net 15 is made of wire of metal, synthetic resin, etc. The opening size is usually about 10 to 100 mesh (JIS L-0208). The net 15 may have a single layer structure, a knitted structure, or a composite structure composed of two or more net layers. A porous material having a large number of permeating pores which is formed by electroforming can be used as the net 15, in which case the diameter of the permeating pores is about 0.05 to 2 mm.--

Page 5, please replace the paragraph at lines 19-27 with the following:

--The material composing the fixing member 16 is not particularly limited. As stated above, the papermaking mold 10 of the present embodiment is used as paired, and a pair of the molds 10 are mated such that the papermaking parts [13] 11 face each other, i.e., the fixing members 16 are brought into contact with each other. Therefore it is preferred for ensuring tight contact that the fixing member 16 be capable of elastic deformation or plastic deformation. The fixing member 16 which is capable of elastic deformation is made of elastic materials, such as silicone rubber and epoxy resins, and the fixing member 16 which is

capable of plastic deformation is made of metal or plastic materials, such as polyethylene and polypropylene.--

Please replace the paragraph bridging pages 11 and 12 with the following:

--The papermaking mold 101 can be used, for example, in the method of producing a pulp molded article shown in Figs. 6(a) through (d). As shown in Fig. 6(a), a pair of papermaking molds 101 and 101 are joined together with the papermaking parts 120a facing each other to mate the mating surfaces 121a. A cavity C of a prescribed shape is thus formed by the two papermaking parts 120a. A pulp slurry is injected into the cavity C through an opening connecting to the cavity C. In this state, the auxiliary sealing members 130 having an elastic force are in intimate contact with each other, but the mold clamping force is exerted on the mating surfaces [121] 121a so that the nets 103 do not directly receive such a force as to damage the nets 103. As a result, the peripheral covering part of the net undergoes substantially no deformation and can be protected from damage in repeated papermaking operation.--

Page 14, please replace the paragraph at lines 15-28 with the following:

--In the papermaking mold 101' of the embodiment shown in Fig. 10, an alteration is made to the position where to dispose the sealing member on the surface to be mated on mold clamping so that the peripheral covering part [103b] 103a of the papermaking net 103 may be disposed such that it would not be deformed under the mold clamping force. That is, a mating member 125 is provided outside the frame 104. It is not the upper side 121a of the flange 121 but the upper edge side 125a of the mating member 125 that serves as a surface to be mated on mold clamping. The side 125a has a groove 125b, in which a sealing member 125c is fixedly fitted. The upper side 121a of the flange 121 is lower than the upper edge side 125a of the mating member 125. On mold clamping, two mating nets 103 come into contact

at their peripheral covering parts 103a, while the clamping force is received by the mating upper edge sides 125a. As a result, the net 103 does not directly receive the clamping force. Further, since the shock of contact is relaxed by the auxiliary sealing member 130, damage from the friction between the mating nets 103 is also reduced.--

Page 15, please replace the paragraph at lines 19-25 with the following:

--With this structure, even after the papermaking net 103 is fixed, the molding clamping force can easily be adjusted so that the peripheral covering part 103a of the papermaking net 103 is not deformed and that the peripheral covering part 103a (or an auxiliary sealing member 130 if provided on the peripheral covering part [103b] 103a) may secure tight seal to provide a flash-free molded article. Having the depression 126e and the projection 127e, the structure makes it possible to carry out positioning with good accuracy in clamping the molds.--

IN THE ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Please amend the Abstract as follows:

--A papermaking mold [(10)] which [comprises] includes a papermaking part [(11)] of a prescribed shape, a peripheral part [(13)] extending outward from the peripheral edge of the papermaking part [(11)], and a net [(15)] covering the papermaking part [(11)] and at least part of the peripheral part [(13), wherein a] A fixing member [(16)] is disposed on the periphery of the net [(15)], and the fixing member [(16)] is fixed to the peripheral part [(13)] to fix the net [(15)] by the fixing member [(16)].--